

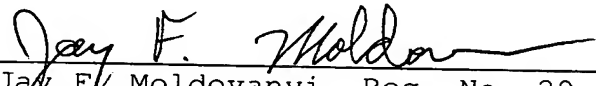
REMARKS

This application is the entry into the national phase in the United States concerning International Application PCT/GB00/03364. In the International Application, there are a number of multiply dependent claims. Some of these claims are themselves dependent from other multiply dependent claims. Since such a claim structure is impermissible in the United States, applicant takes this opportunity to remove all multiple dependencies from the claims.

Prompt and favorable examination of claims 1-34 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

FAY, SHARPE, FAGAN,
MINNICH & MCKEE, LLP


Jay F. Moldovanyi, Reg. No. 29,678
1100 Superior Avenue, 7th Floor
Cleveland OH 44114-2513
(216) 861-5582

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EXHIBIT A

Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 3 - 5, 7, 9, 10, 12, 14, 15, 17, 21 - 33 as follows:

3. (Amended) A composition as claimed in claim 1 [or 2] which essentially consists of (i) - (iv) as defined in claim 1.

4. (Amended) A composition as claimed in [any preceding] claim 1 which consists of (i) - (iv) as defined in claim 1 apart from any unavoidable impurities.

5. (Amended) A composition as claimed in [any preceding] claim 1 wherein (i) is an inorganic salt of zinc, magnesium, copper, selenium, iron, nickel, titanium or vanadium.

7. (Amended) A composition as claimed in claim 5 [or 6] in which said salt (i) is a zinc, magnesium, copper, iron or selenium salt.

9. (Amended) A composition as claimed in [any preceding] claim 1 in which the metal ion modifier (ii) is at least one metal ion binding, complexing, or sequestering agent.

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10. (Amended) A composition as claimed in [any preceding] claim 1 wherein (ii) comprises one or more inorganic ammonium compounds capable of dissociating in water into ammonium ions such as one or more of: ammonium sulphate, ammonium chloride, ammonium phosphate, and ammonium citrate.

12. (Amended) A composition as claimed in [any preceding] claim 1 in which (iii) comprises one or more of sulphuric, hydrochloric, phosphoric and citric acids.

14. (Amended) A composition as claimed in [any preceding] claim 1 in which (iv) consists essentially of distilled water or entirely of distilled water apart from any unavoidable impurities.

15. (Amended) A composition as claimed in [any preceding] claim 1 in which the pH value is less than 5, preferably less than 4, more preferably less than 3, most preferably less than 2.5.

17. (Amended) A composition as claimed in [any preceding] claim 1 in which the electrolytic potential is in excess of 20 millivolts, preferably in excess of 50 millivolts and more preferably in excess of 100 millivolts.

21. (Amended) A method of making a composition as

claimed in [any preceding] claim 1 comprising dissolving (i) in distilled water, adding (ii) and mixing or allowing to dissolve.

22. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 21 in which (i) is as defined in [any one of claims 5 to 8] claim 5.

23. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 21 [or 22] in which (ii) is defined in [any one of claims 9 to 11] claim 11.

24. (Amended) A method as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 21] claim 21 wherein (iii) is as defined in claim 12 [or 13].

25. (Amended) Use of a composition as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 21] claim 1 as a medicament for treating or preventing a pathogenic disease or disorder.

26. (Amended) A composition as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 21] claim 1 for the preparation of a medicament for treating or preventing a pathogenic disease or disorder.

27. (Amended) Use of a composition as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 21] claim 1 as an antimicrobial, antiviral, anti-retrovirus, or antifungal formulation.

28. (Amended) An antimicrobial, antiviral, antiretrovirus or antifungal formulation comprising a composition as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 21] claim 1 in conjunction with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent or excipient therefor.

29. (Amended) Use of a composition as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 21] claim 1 for the treatment of water, or predominantly water-containing material.

30. (Amended) Use of a composition as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 21] claim 1 for the treatment of sewage, industrial or municipal wastes.

31. (Amended) Use of a composition as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 21] claim 1 for the treatment of foodstuffs as a disinfectant or bactericide, particularly copper containing such compositions.

32. (Amended) Use of a composition as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 21] claim 1 for the preservation of plants, flowers, trees or shrubs.

33. (Amended) Use of a composition as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 21] claim 1 in the treatment of a metal for coating, sealing, plating or otherwise forming an anti-corrosive layer upon a metallic substrate.